

15 January 1970

To: Executive Director

Red,

1. Bob Bannerman asked me to recontact you prior to returning the "Jack" to the main entrance area of Headquarters, saying that there were people who did not like it whose views should be respected, and suggesting that contemporary art in places of prominence might not be appropriate, etc.

2. I and the Fine Arts Commission hope you will authorize returning it to its former position in the main entrance. In making this strong plea I would like to point out that I believe we are dealing here with two points bearing on vital interests of the Agency additional to our interest in providing pleasant and stimulating environments for our staff.

a. The Agency's public image. I believe an official awareness of contemporary art contributes to improving our battered public image, and is particularly influential among groups who are critical of us. Visiting newsmen shown the paintings in our corridors approve; the young editors who were received here for a press conference commented favorably.

b. Some of the younger employees of the Agency--with whom as a group management has a "communications" problem which management is trying to deal with constructively.

3. Certainly many people dislike contemporary art, as all generations have reacted against new and not fully understood developments. It makes us older staff (who in our time accommodated to what was new) uncomfortable and anxious. We prefer not to have it around, and this is natural and understandable. I believe, however, the older staff should tolerate what is happening in the art world and even put up with

2

some personal discomfort where it serves the interest of the Agency.

4. I attach a summary, together with a random dozen specific comments, of a survey we have just completed of employee opinion on FAC activities. We put a box in Corridor D soliciting views of anyone who cared to drop a card in the box. Views run from strong positive to strong negative. The FAC is surprised that the ratio came out as favorable as it did for this kind of a survey.

5. This survey adds to my assurance that we're going ok. May I please put the "Jack" back where it was?

[Redacted]

Chairman  
Fine Arts Commission

STAT

Att. a/s para 4

*Batches 4 + 5 of comments  
were sent with this - only on original*

cc: Mr. Bannerman, DDS ✓

[Redacted]

STAT

January 1970

Analysis of Comments Submitted to the  
Fine Arts Commission by Agency Employees

Favorable Comments:<sup>1</sup>

Concerning FAC in general	60
Concerning Photos and Paintings	15
Concerning Paintings only	11
Concerning Photos only	<u>43</u>
Total Favorable Comments	129

Unfavorable Comments:<sup>1</sup>

Concerning FAC in general	8
Concerning Paintings only	<u>32</u>
Total Unfavorable Comments	40

Comments Favorable Toward Photos but

Unfavorable toward Paintings	42
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Other Unclassified Comments <sup>2</sup>	<u>9</u>
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Total Comments Received	220 <sup>3</sup>
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NOTES:

1. If only those comments directed to the FAC, in general, and the paintings are considered, the results would be 86 Favorable and 82 Unfavorable.
2. These were primarily requests for information.
3. Each card submitted is considered as a single comment. 220 cards were received.

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM					
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	Mr. Bannerman - DDS [redacted]				
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		XX	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
Chairman, Fine Arts Comm. [redacted]				1/20/70	

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Turnam  
Please hold for  
meeting with



26 Jan. 70

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